

Message Text

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63

ACTION SS-25

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R 161505Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4764
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 18344

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT, US, MA

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY GENERAL MANZINI

1. DURING A LUNCHEON CONVERSATION DECEMBER 15 MFA SECRETARY GENERAL MANZINI TOLD ME ABOUT HIS RECENT VISIT TO MALTA AS PART OF PRESIDENT LEONE'S ENTOURAGE. MINTOFF TOLD MANZINI THAT HE IS VERY ANXIOUS TO MEET A US REPRESENTATIVE AFTER THE CANCELLATION OF THE ELLSWORTH VISIT (STATE 261390).

2. ACCORDING TO MANZINI, MINTOFF WOULD PREFER TO SEE SECRETARY KISSINGER AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO TRAVEL TO WHATEVER LOCATION THE SECRETARY DETERMINED. THE SECOND CHOICE WOULD BE TO RECEIVE AN AMERICAN OF RANK FROM THE DEPARTMENT IN MALTA. FINALLY, ACCORDING TO MANZINI, MINTOFF WOULD AS A THIRD CHOICE WISH TO TALK WITH ME.

3. I EMPHASIZED TO MANZINI THAT WE HERE IN ROME HAVE NO RESPONSIBILITIES FOR US/MALTESE RELATIONS BUT THAT I WOULD FORWARD HIS COMMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT AND VALLETTA. MANZINI SAID THAT MINTOFF IS WORRYING ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE UK AGREEMENT EXPIRES IN 1979 AND MINTOFF IS TRYING TO PROVIDE MALTESE SECURITY WITHOUT HAVING TO LOOK AT EITHER THE USSR OR THE UK FOR ASSISTANCE. MANZINI SAID THAT THE US WOULD NOT HAVE TO DO ANYTHING, BUT LISTEN AND EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL OPINION
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THAT IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL TO THE ALLIANCE IF WE WOULD RE-

SPOND POSITIVELY TO MINTOFF'S SUGGESTION. VOLPE

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